

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Command Sergeant Major Edward C. Barnhill.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Reserve Command Sergeant Major Edward C. Barnhill upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Command Sergeant Major Edward C. Barnhill; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill was a resident of Shreveport and a 32-year veteran of the Army Reserve, enlisting in the Army in 1972 soon after his graduation from Huntingdon High School in his native Tennessee and ultimately receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal studies from Regents College in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill was the battalion Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Reserve's 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, 358<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade, based in north Little Rock, Arkansas, when the unit was mobilized in February of 2004 and deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill's brave service as his unit's senior enlisted advisor in the Iraqi combat zone was the crowning jewel in his long and distinguished military career where he achieved many honors, decorations, and awards and

1 rose through the ranks to his promotion to the Army's highest enlisted position; and

2 WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill was assigned to numerous Army  
3 Reserve units over the course of his career, serving in a number of military occupational  
4 specialties, including armored crewman, infantryman, logistical specialist, finance  
5 noncommissioned officer, and drill sergeant in a number of states, including Tennessee,  
6 Mississippi, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Arkansas; and

7 WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill's highest priority was the  
8 accomplishment of his unit's mission and getting the men under his command safely back  
9 home to their families and loved ones once their tour of duty was complete, always placing  
10 the needs of his country, his unit and his men above his own needs and personal interests;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill was 50 years of age and had battled  
13 the unyielding heat and sand storms of the desert in performing his duties in an exemplary  
14 manner, on May 15, 2004, he fell mortally ill from an apparent heart attack in Baghdad, Iraq;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, while the loss of Command Sergeant Major Barnhill was almost more  
17 than his wife, Paula, and his two sons, Marcus and Jason, could endure, his sacrifice for his  
18 country is a shining symbol of the citizen soldier who refuses to shrink from his sworn  
19 duties; and

20 WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Barnhill will forever be remembered by his  
21 family, friends, and fellow soldiers as a totally dedicated soldier and his sacrifice serves as  
22 a reminder that freedom is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the  
23 freedoms and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
25 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a  
26 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Reserve Command Sergeant  
27 Major Edward C. Barnhill.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be  
29 transmitted to the family of Command Sergeant Major Edward C. Barnhill.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Reserve Command Sergeant Major Edward C. Barnhill.